Colchester Public Schools
Colchester, CT

School Year 2024-25 Enrollment Projection Report

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Enrollment Summary

NESDEC is pleased to send you this report displaying the past, present, and projected enrollments for your District. It is important to update enrollment projections every year to identify changes in enrollment patterns. Ten-year projections are designed to provide your District with yearly, up-to-date enrollment information that can be used by boards and administrators for effective planning and allocation of resources. We received the enrollment data from the District, and we assume that the method of collecting this data has been consistent from year to year.

Birth data informs Kindergarten enrollment. Each fall, NESDEC secures birth data from State sources, providing a snapshot in time as to actual and provisional births as reported by the State, and then uses this birth data to predict Kindergarten enrollments. We only use Fall birth data to assure consistency in reporting from year to year. Estimated births, which are an average of the previous five years of birth data, are based on this same snapshot. NESDEC acknowledges the variability of the provisional and the estimated birth data, and notes that the projected Kindergarten enrollments may serve as a guide to future planning.

Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future. Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes. In light of this, NESDEC has added a "Spring Update Refresher" enrollment projection at no cost to affiliates. For more information, please refer to the Projection Methodology and Reliability section of this document.

The NESDEC enrollment projection fell within 68 students of the K-12 total, 2,060 students projected vs. 1,992 enrolled. One variance of 48 students occurred at Kindergarten, 183 projected vs. 135 enrolled. This variance could be attributed to the new CT New Entry Age for Kindergarten; continued monitoring is suggested.

Births increased by 13 from a previous ten-year average of 140 to a projected average of 153. In most districts, Grades 1-8 are very stable in enrollments. However, there have been increases in 6 of the 8 most recent years, leading to a net increase averaging 8 students per year.

Over the next three years, Grades K-2 enrollments are projected to increase by 49 students, Grades 3-5 enrollments are projected to decrease by 27 students, Grades 6-8 enrollments are projected to increase by 84 students, and Grades 9-12 enrollments are projected to decrease by 43 students, as students move through the grades.

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Historical Enrollment

School District: Colchester, CT **10/15/2024**

Historical Enrollment By Grade																			
Birth Year	Births*	School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2009	160	**2014-15**	60	162	161	160	168	201	217	199	198	231	226	210	215	246	0	2594	2654
2010	151	**2015-16**	92	147	170	160	163	165	203	212	197	190	201	220	207	226	0	2461	2553
2011	137	**2016-17**	99	138	141	171	170	162	166	189	215	201	189	198	221	212	0	2373	2472
2012	140	**2017-18**	92	155	144	152	174	171	170	166	194	213	207	186	197	231	0	2360	2452
2013	111	**2018-19**	97	127	160	149	151	161	171	168	164	190	197	213	175	198	0	2224	2321
2014	133	**2019-20**	104	158	128	165	142	155	161	175	171	173	208	194	198	190	0	2218	2322
2015	127	**2020-21**	81	142	144	131	159	142	145	166	169	169	172	199	179	195	0	2112	2193
2016	161	**2021-22**	97	199	156	147	136	155	145	151	162	165	175	171	177	180	0	2119	2216
2017	145	**2022-23**	106	174	190	161	150	138	156	158	159	162	174	163	165	179	0	2129	2235
2018	133	**2023-24**	98	149	175	184	169	150	143	152	158	160	147	172	135	152	0	2046	2144
2019	157	**2024-25**	94	135	148	179	184	174	151	147	144	160	148	133	156	133	17	2009	2103

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Historical Enrollment in Grade Combinations									
School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	K-8	6-12	9-12
2014-15	1129	1069	543	483	586	628	1697	1525	897
2015-16	1100	1008	569	477	531	599	1607	1453	854
2016-17	1047	948	549	450	498	605	1553	1425	820
2017-18	1058	966	543	451	515	573	1539	1394	821
2018-19	1016	919	533	436	483	522	1441	1305	783
2019-20	1013	909	555	451	458	519	1428	1309	790
2020-21	944	863	498	417	446	504	1367	1249	745
2021-22	1035	938	599	502	436	478	1416	1181	703
2022-23	1075	969	631	525	444	479	1448	1160	681
2023-24	1068	970	606	508	462	470	1440	1076	606
2024-25	1065	971	556	462	509	451	1422	1021	570

Historical Percentage Changes			
School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2014-15	2594		
2015-16	2461	-133	-5.1%
2016-17	2373	-88	-3.6%
2017-18	2360	-13	-0.5%
2018-19	2224	-136	-5.8%
2019-20	2218	-6	-0.3%
2020-21	2112	-106	-4.8%
2021-22	2119	7	0.3%
2022-23	2129	10	0.5%
2023-24	2046	-83	-3.9%
2024-25	2009	-37	-1.8%
Change		**-585**	**-22.6%**

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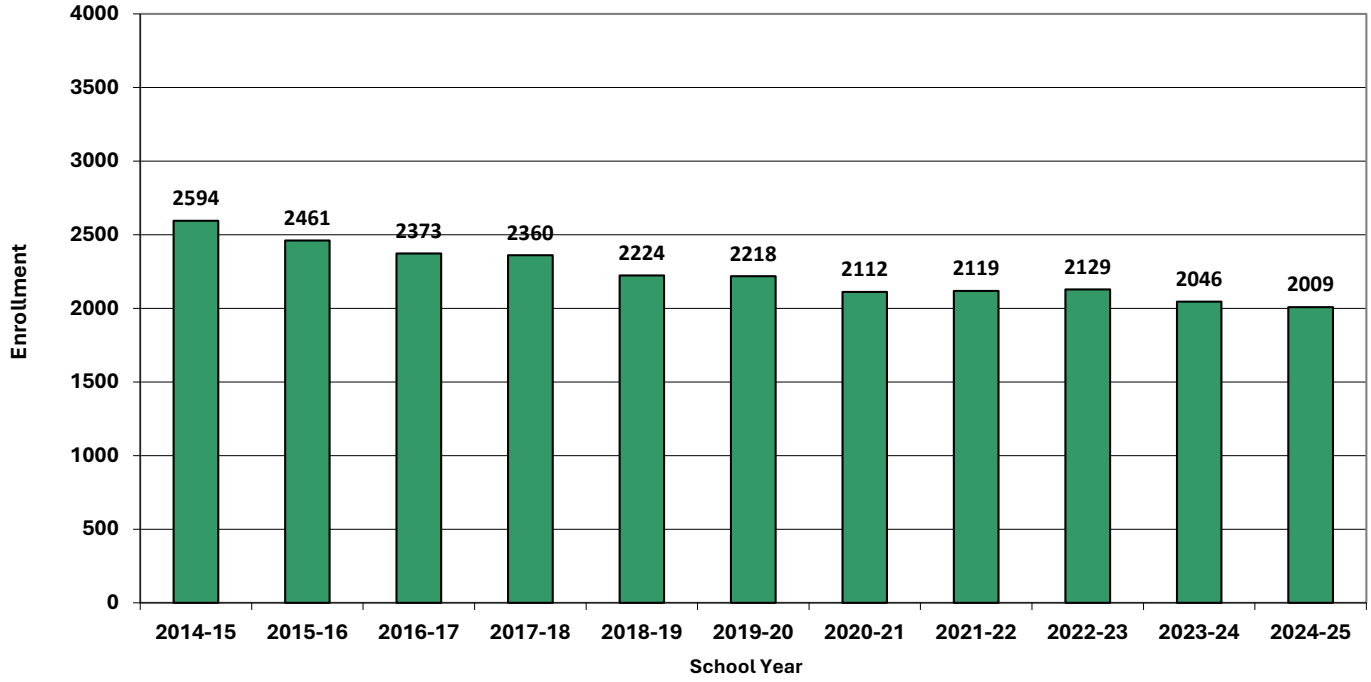
Grades K-12 Historical Enrollment



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Projected Enrollment

School District: Colchester, CT **10/15/2024**

Enrollment Projections By Grade*																			
Birth Year	Births*		School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2019	157		2024-25	94	135	148	179	184	174	151	147	144	160	148	133	156	133	17	2009	2103
2020	139		2025-26	94	156	135	149	183	187	177	156	147	145	154	139	120	152	17	2017	2111
2021	173	(prov.)	2026-27	95	194	156	136	152	186	190	182	156	148	140	145	125	117	17	2044	2139
2022	143	(prov.)	2027-28	95	160	194	157	139	154	189	196	182	157	142	132	131	122	17	2072	2167
2023	152	(prov.)	2028-29	96	170	160	196	161	141	157	195	196	183	151	134	119	127	17	2107	2203
2024	153	(est.)	2029-30	96	171	170	161	201	163	143	162	195	197	176	142	121	116	17	2135	2231
2025	152	(est.)	2030-31	97	170	171	171	165	204	166	147	162	196	190	166	128	118	17	2171	2268
2026	155	(est.)	2031-32	97	173	170	172	175	167	207	171	147	163	189	179	149	124	17	2203	2300
2027	151	(est.)	2032-33	98	169	173	171	176	178	170	213	171	148	157	178	161	145	17	2227	2325
2028	152	(est.)	2033-34	98	171	169	174	175	179	181	175	213	172	142	148	160	157	17	2233	2331
2029	153	(est.)	2034-35	98	171	171	170	178	178	182	187	175	214	166	134	133	156	17	2232	2330

Note: Ungraded students (UNGR) often are high school students whose anticipated years of graduation are unknown, or students with special needs - UNGR not included in Grade Combinations for 7-12, 9-12, etc.

Based on an estimate of births | Based on children already born | Based on students already enrolled

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*									
School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	K-8	6-12	9-12
2024-25	1065	971	556	462	509	451	1422	1021	570
2025-26	1081	987	534	440	547	448	1435	1013	565
2026-27	1109	1014	581	486	528	486	1500	1013	527
2027-28	1088	993	606	511	482	535	1528	1062	527
2028-29	1081	985	622	526	459	574	1559	1105	531
2029-30	1105	1009	598	502	507	554	1563	1109	555
2030-31	1144	1047	609	512	535	505	1552	1107	602
2031-32	1161	1064	612	515	549	481	1545	1122	641
2032-33	1135	1037	611	513	524	532	1569	1173	641
2033-34	1147	1049	612	514	535	560	1609	1167	607
2034-35	1148	1050	610	512	538	576	1626	1165	589

Projected Percentage Changes			
School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2024-25	2009		
2025-26	2017	8	0.4%
2026-27	2044	27	1.3%
2027-28	2072	28	1.4%
2028-29	2107	35	1.7%
2029-30	2135	28	1.3%
2030-31	2171	36	1.7%
2031-32	2203	32	1.5%
2032-33	2227	24	1.1%
2033-34	2233	6	0.3%
2034-35	2232	-1	0.0%
Change		223	11.1%

*Projections should be updated annually to reflect changes in in/out-migration of families, real estate sales, residential construction, births, and similar factors.

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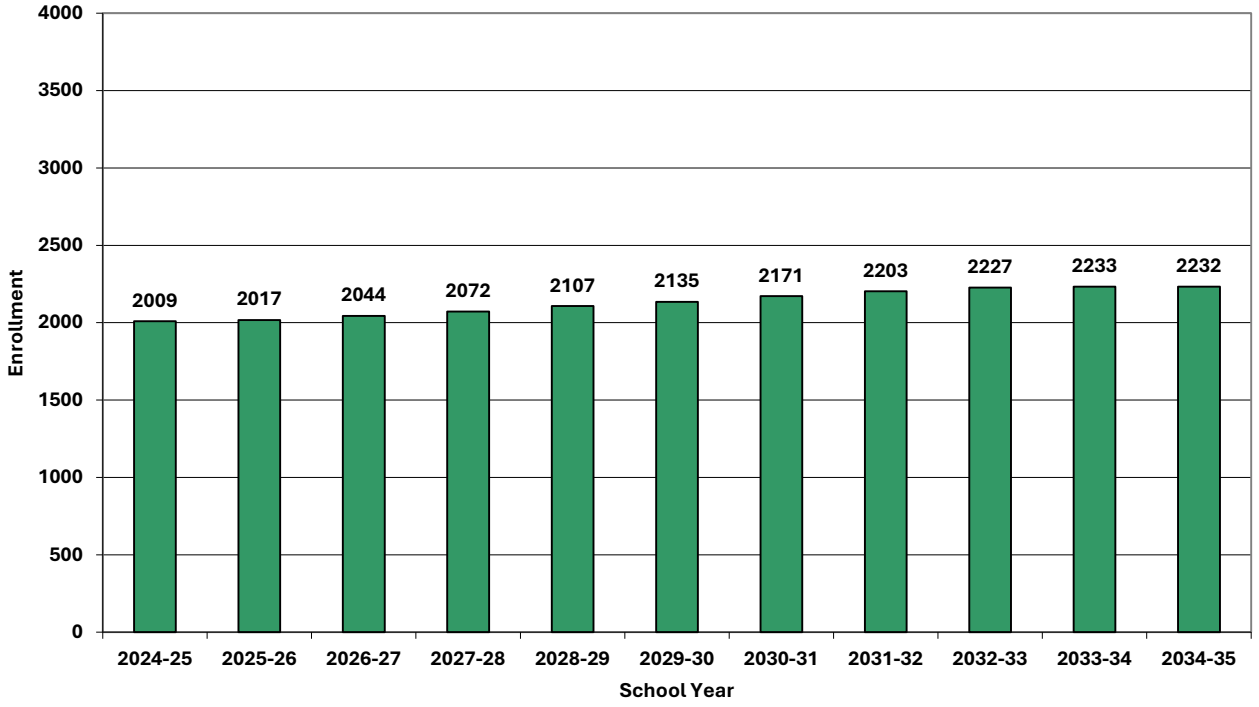
Grades K-12 Projected Enrollment



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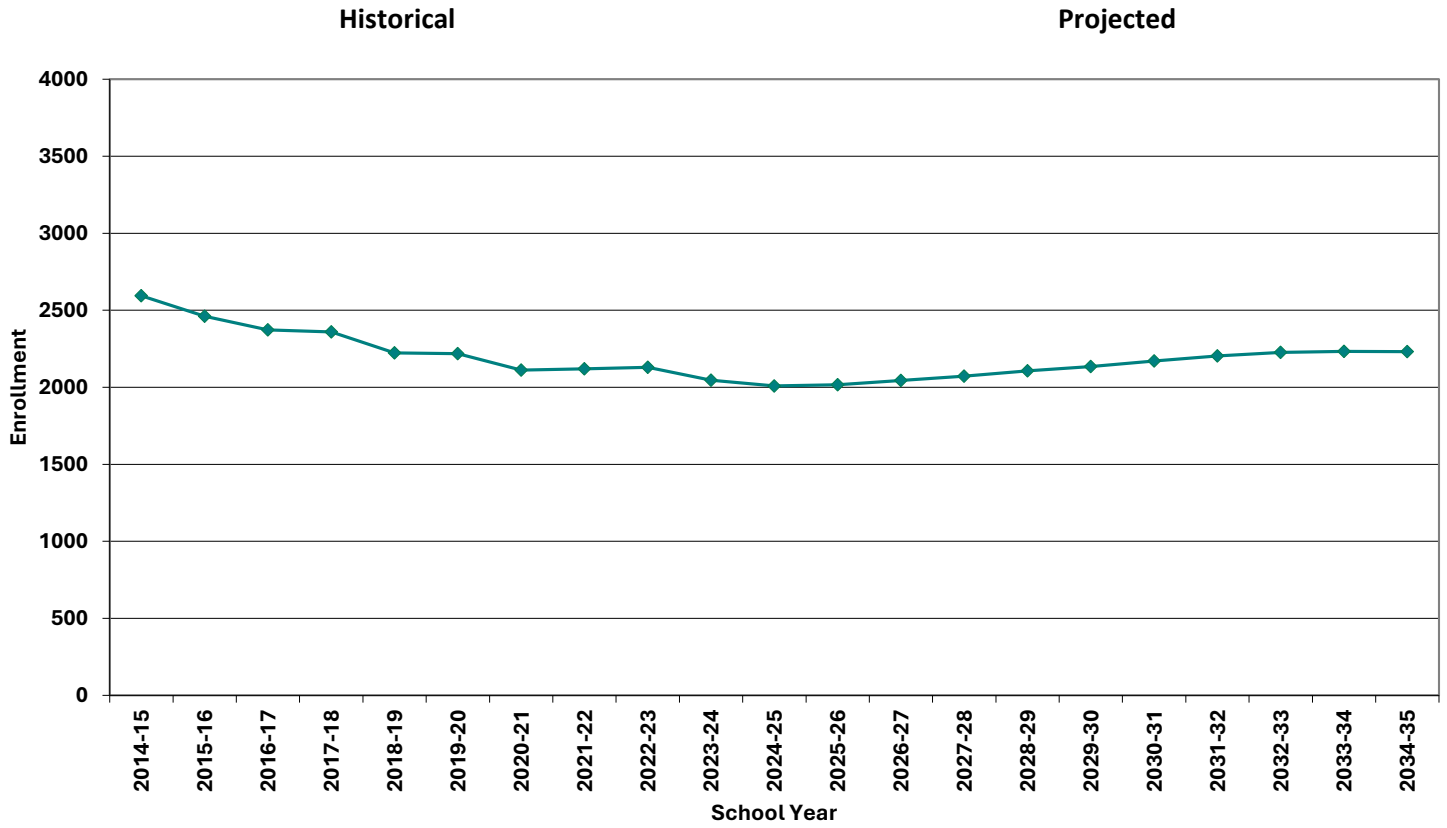
Grades K-12 Historical & Projected Enrollment



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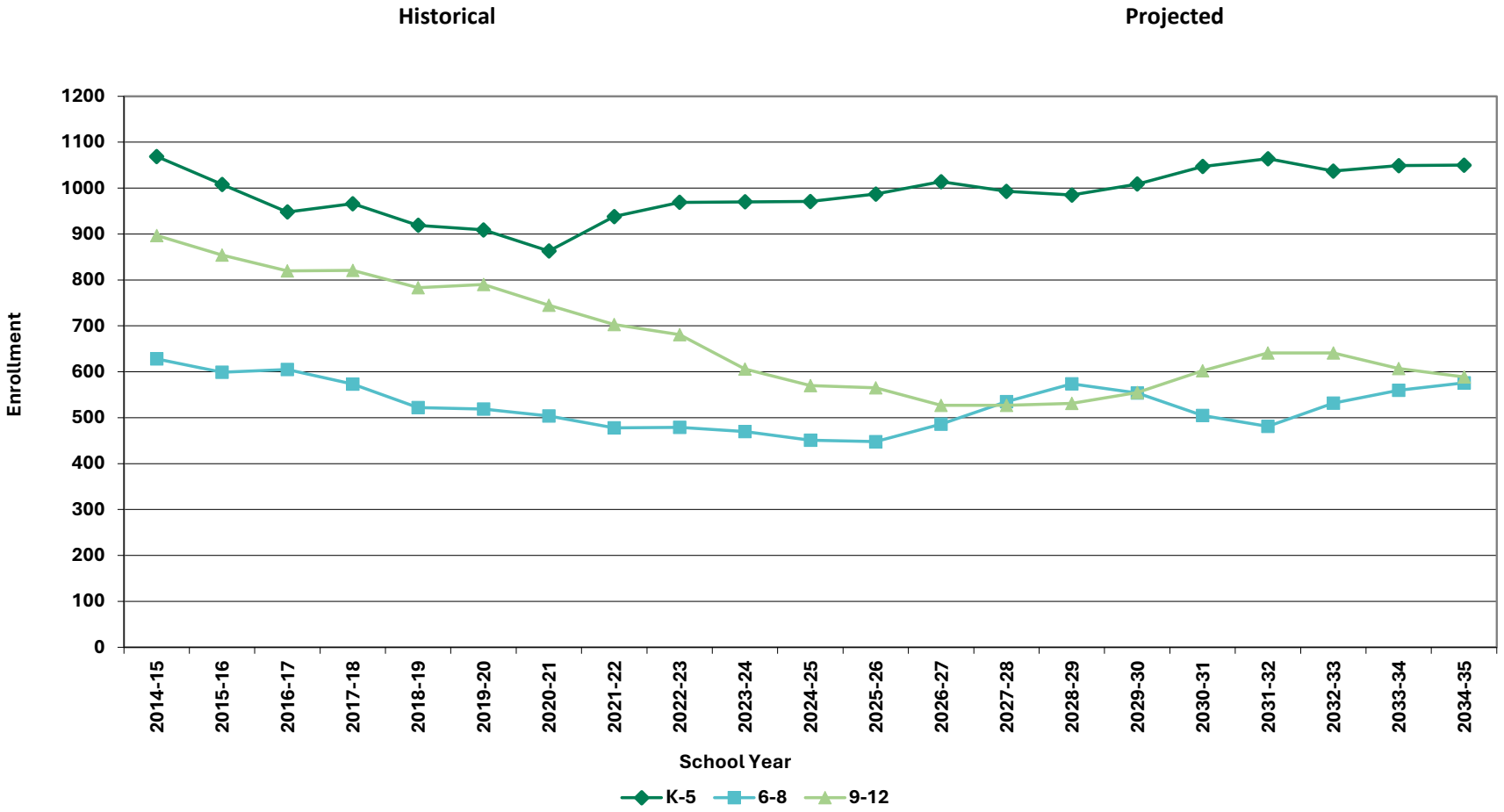
Historical & Projected Enrollments in Grade Combinations



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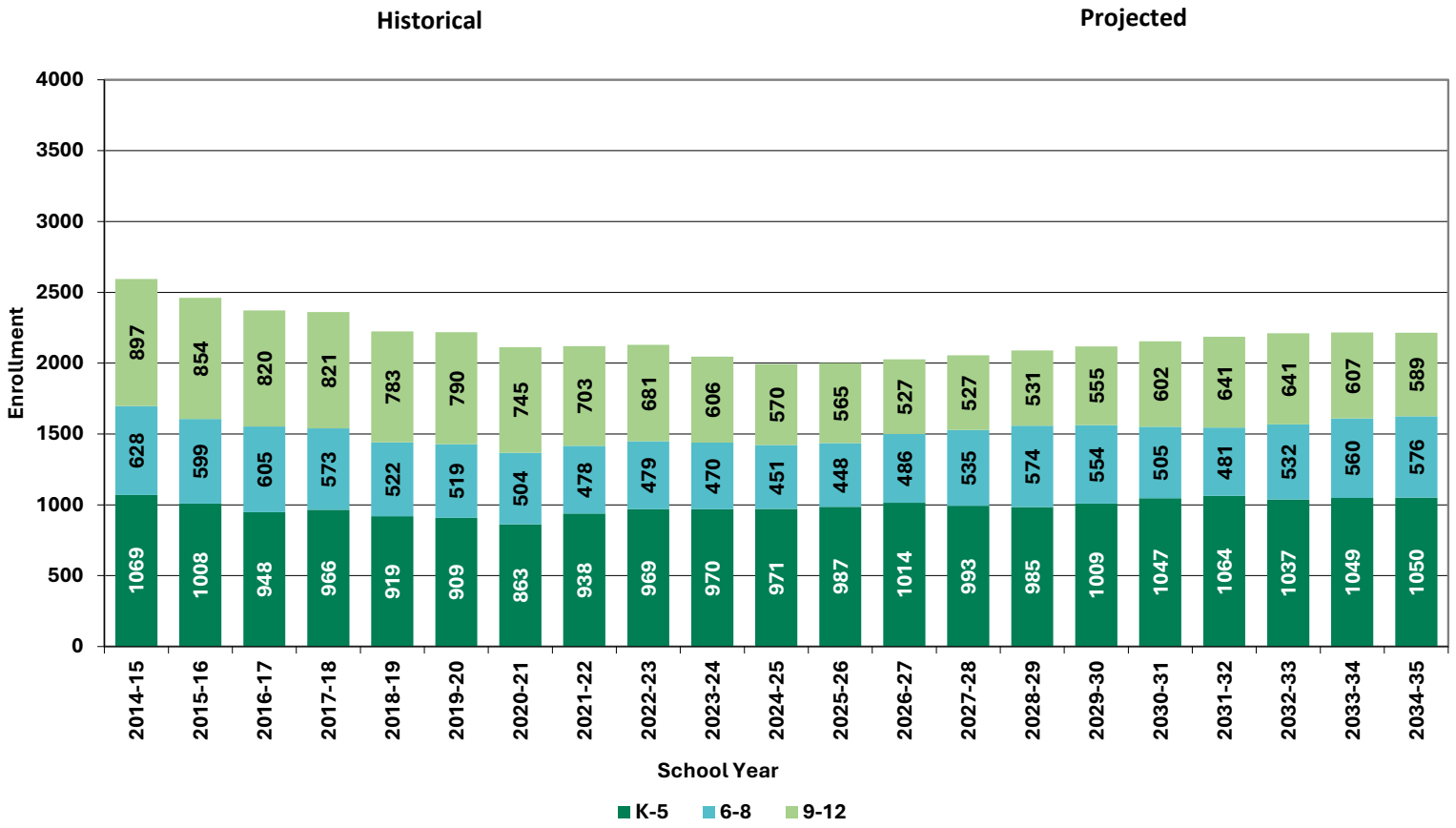
Historical & Projected Enrollments in Grade Combinations



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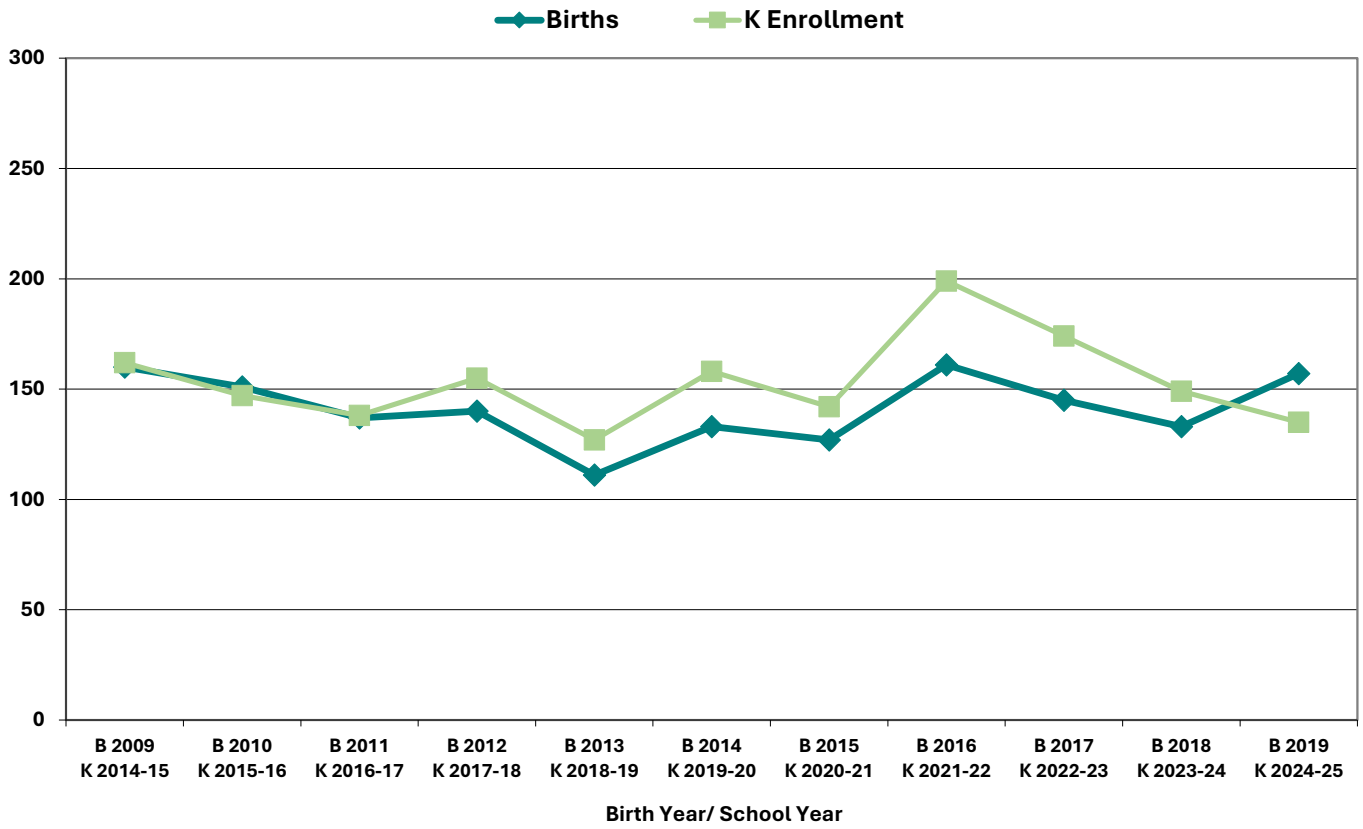
Birth-to-Kindergarten Relationship



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Additional Information

School Year	9-12 CTE	K-12 Non-Public	K-12 Choice-In	K-12 Choice-Out	K-12 Out District SPED	K-12 Homeschool
2020-21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021-22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022-23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2023-24	88	n/a	37	25	13	22
2024-25	62	26	30	25	27	26

* Data provided by District.

"n/a" signifies that information was not provided by District.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Building Permits Issued		
Year	Single-Family	Multi-Units
2020	18	2
2021	18	2
2022	16	0
2023	14	0
2024	9 to date	0 to date

*Building permit data from HUD.

New England's PK-12 Enrollments Trends

From 2022 to 2031, the US Department of Education anticipates changes in PK-12 enrollment of -1.8% in the South, -9.7% in the West, -5.0% in the Midwest, -9.1% in the Northeast, and a total of -5.5% nationwide.

State	Fall 2022 PK - 12	Fall 2031 Projected	PK-12 Decline	% Change 2022-2031
USA	49,618,464	46,889,600	-2,728,864	-5.5%
CT	513,513	465,200	-48,313	-9.4%
ME	173,853	162,900	-10,953	-6.3%
MA	923,349	857,100	-66,249	-7.2%
NH	168,909	156,600	-12,309	-7.3%
RI	137,449	127,900	-9,549	-6.9%
VT	83,654	77,300	-6,354	-7.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by region, state, and jurisdiction: Selected years, fall 1990 through fall 2031, Table 203.20, Report Generated Dec. 2023, NESDEC 2.8.24

Although most New England Districts are seeing a decline in the number of births, NESDEC's experience indicates that the impact on enrollment varies from District to District. Almost half of New England Districts have been growing in PK-12 enrollment, and a similar number are declining (often in rural areas), with the other Districts remaining stable.

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Projection Methodology and Reliability

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

Cohort component (survival) technique is a frequently used method of preparing enrollment forecasts. NESDEC uses this method, but modifies it in order to move away from forecasts that are wholly computer- or formula-driven. Such modification permits the incorporation of important, current district-specific demographic information into the generation of enrollment forecasts (such as in/out-migration of students, resident births, HUD-reported building permits, etc.). Percentages are calculated from the historical enrollment data to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades. For example, if 100 students enrolled in Grade 1 in 2023-24 increased to 104 students in Grade 2 in 2024-25, the percentage of survival would be 104%, or a ratio of 1.04. Ratios are calculated between each pair of grades or years in school over several recent years.

After study and analysis of the historical ratios, and based upon a reasonable set of assumptions regarding births, migration rates, retention rates, etc., ratios most indicative of future growth patterns are determined for each pair of grades. The ratios thus selected are applied to the present enrollment statistics to project into future years. The ratios are the key factors in the reliability of the projections, assuming validity of the data at the starting point.

RELIABILITY OF ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Projections can serve as useful guides to school administrators for educational planning. Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future and less reliable in the "out-years." Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes, but they should be viewed as subject to change given the likelihood of potential shifts in underlying assumptions/trends, such as student migration, births as they relate to Kindergarten enrollment, and other factors.

Projections that are based upon **the children who already are in the district** (the current K-12 population only) will be the most reliable. The second level of reliability will be for those children already **born into the community but not yet old enough to be in school.** The least reliable category is the group for which an estimate must be made **to predict the number of births**, thereby adding additional uncertainty. See these three multi-colored groupings on the "Projected Enrollment" tab.

Annual updates allow for early identification of recent changes in historical trends. When the actual enrollment in a grade is significantly different (higher or lower) from the projected number, it is important (yet difficult) to determine whether this is a one-year aberration or whether a new trend may have begun. **In light of this possibility, NESDEC urges all school districts to have updated enrollment forecasts developed by NESDEC each October.** This service is available at no cost to affiliated school districts.